

(4) SOCIAL INTEECOURSE

Before the new rise of anti-Semitism, Jews in culturally advanced countries nearly everywhere moved also in non-Jewish society, but now in many countries have withdrawn, or had to withdraw from it, forming their own Jewish lodges, clubs, social and educational societies. This form of "social inbreeding" is most highly developed where the Jews, so far, have not completely adjusted themselves to their cultural surroundings, *e.g.* in the United States, where the majority of the Jews are the first or second generation of immigrants. Social intercourse between Jews and non-Jews was common in Germany during the Liberal era (in the second half of the nineteenth century), but has decreased considerably, surviving longest in literary and artistic circles. In the other strata of the population Jews and non-Jews meet professionally, but there is very little social

intercourse, Anti-Semitism forces the Jews into a defensive position and increases their solidarity; it has thereby checked assimilation, and strengthened the Jewish national consciousness, which was at an ebb in Western and Central Europe. None the less, the number of baptisms and mixed marriages has increased, though probably much less than it would have, were there not the barrier of anti-Semitism.